



The Navy and Marine Corps Team: Peleliu Amphibious Ready Group / 15th Marine Expeditionary Unit



The 15th Marine Expeditionary Unit, embarked aboard ships of the Peleliu Amphibious Ready Group, completed its eight-month deployment on May 13, 2012. After departing the U.S. 5th and 7th Fleet areas of responsibility, the blue-green team returned to their respective homeports at Naval Base San Diego and Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton, Ca.



The PELARG, which included the 15th MEU and Amphibious Squadron Three, sailed from Naval Base San Diego on Sept. 17, 2012, covering more than 43,000 nautical miles. While deployed, the Navy-Marine Corps team conducted numerous theater security cooperation exercises with partners in the Western Pacific and Middle East. These TSCs promoted military cooperation and interoperability and laid the framework for continued security and prosperity in the region. The PELARG also participated in an international training exercise that focused on employing maritime interdiction operations to prevent nuclear and chemical proliferation.

As U.S. Central Command's theater-reserve and crisis-response force, 15th MEU and PHIBRON 3 planned for contingencies focused on embassy reinforcement and non-combatant evacuation operations during times of increased instability in the Middle East and Africa. Other missions ranged from serving as a quick reaction force for military raids and providing Marines for maritime interdiction operations to offering fixed and rotary-wing strike support.

In preparation for the Western Pacific 12-2 deployment, the 15th MEU completed 30 weeks of training, including 18 separate training exercises and 80 exercise missions over more than 80 days at sea and in the field. This time allowed the MEU to become proficient across the range of military operations, from amphibious assaults, raids and maritime interdiction operations to humanitarian assistance, disaster relief, and non-combatant evacuation operations.

The 15th MEU is a Marine Air Ground Task Force composed of a Command Element, with attached major subordinate elements Battalion Landing Team 3/5 serving as the Ground Combat Element, Marine Medium Helicopter Squadron 364 (Reinforced) serving as the Aviation Combat Element and Combat Logistics Battalion 15 serving as the Logistics Combat Element. PHIBRON 3 is composed of amphibious assault ship *USS Peleliu* (LHA 5), amphibious transport dock ship *USS Green Bay* (LPD 20), amphibious dock landing ship *USS Rushmore* (LSD 47), and support elements from Fleet Surgical Team 1, Tactical Air Control Squadron 11, Helicopter Sea Combat Squadron 23, Assault Craft Units 1 and 5, and Beach Master Unit 1.

About CAPT Lobree:

- Commissioned in 1986 after graduating from Florida State University
- At-sea assignments include communications and ordnance officer in USS FAHRION (FFG 22); first lieutenant in USS BARNSTABLE COUNTY (LST 1197); operations and plans officer, commander Amphibious Squadron SIX; fleet scheduler, Commander Sixth Fleet; Exec. Officer, USS SACRAMENTO (AOE 1); C5I Officer in USS BATAAN (LHD 5) and commissioning commanding officer of USS MESA VERDE (LPD 19)
- Shore assignments include duty as Aide to the Commandant, Naval District Washington, DC and Joint Duty as Deputy Director, J6 at Joint Forces Command
- Holds a master's degree in information technology management from the Naval Postgraduate School and a master's degree in national security and strategic studies from the Naval War College
- Personal decorations include the Defense Superior Service Medal, the Meritorious Service Medal, the Navy Commendation Medal, and the Navy Achievement Medal and various campaign, expeditionary and unit awards

**About Col Campbell:**

- Commissioned in 1987 after graduating from the Univ. of Oklahoma
- Assigned to USMC Technical Assistance Field Team in Saudi Arabia as the Schools and Naval Special Forces advisor, 1994-95
- Deployed with the 22nd Marine Expeditionary Unit (Special Operations Capable) with additional duty as Maritime Special Purpose Force Commander
- Commanded the Georgia Train and Equip Program in the Republic of Georgia, 2002-03
- Deployed to Afghanistan in support of Operation Enduring Freedom 2003-04 and twice to Iraq in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom, 2004-06
- Served as chief of the Anti-Terrorism/Force Protection Division while concurrently serving as the Counter Terrorism Branch chief, US Africa Command, 2008-10
- Became CO of the 15th Marine Expeditionary Unit in Camp Pendleton, CA in March 2011
- Holds a master's degree in international and strategic studies from the Naval War College and is a graduate of the Amphibious Warfare School in Quantico, VA
- Personal decorations include the Bronze Star Medal with combat distinguishing device, Defense Meritorious Service Medal, Meritorious Service Medal (third award), Joint Commendation Medal (second award), Navy Commendation Medal (fourth award), Navy Achievement Medal (second award) and the Combat Action Ribbon with Gold Star in lieu of second award

